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Identical letters dated 15 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 15 April 2001 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 27 March to 6 April 2001 they carried out 299 sorties, 97 of them from Saudi Arabia, 110 from Kuwait and 92 from Turkey.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this unwarranted aggression and ensuring that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 15 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 299 sorties in the period from 27 March to 6 April 2001, 97 of them from Saudi Arabia, 110 from Kuwait and 92 from Turkey.

1. In the northern region 92 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1100 hours on 27 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Irbil, Tall Afar, Aqrah, Zakho, Amadiyah and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1100 hours on 28 March 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Baibo, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Mosul, Rawanduz, Irbil and Sinjar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1430 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1000 hours on 1 April 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Aqrah, Mosul, Irbil, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah and Sinjar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1300 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0955 hours on 2 April 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Aqrah, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Ayn Zalah, Sinjar, Mosul and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1315 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1130 hours on 6 April 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Amadiyah, Baibo, Dohuk, Ayn Zalah, Aqrah, Sinjar, Tall Afar and Mosul areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1405 hours, drove them off.

In the southern region 207 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1300 hours on 27 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Basrah, Samawah, Najaf, Salman, Artawi, Rifa`i, Jalibah and Qal`at Sukkar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1500 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0910 hours on 29 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 47 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 25 from the demilitarized zone with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Basrah, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Ukhaydir, Afak, Kut, Samawah, Diwaniyah, Qal`at Sukkar, Qal`at Salih, Busayyah, Lasaf, Shatrah and Rifa`i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1230 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0900 hours on 30 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 21 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and seven from Kuwaiti territory by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Amarah, Salman, Qurnah, Basrah, Jalibah, Artawi, Rifa`i and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1104 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1310 hours on 1 April 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 21 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 11 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Ashbajah, Samawah, Busayyah, Shinafiyah, Shatrah, Artawi, Qal`at Sukkar, Basrah, Qurnah, Lasaf and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1430 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1445 hours on 2 April 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 25 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 11 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basrah, Artawi, Shatrah, Shinafiyah, Qal`at Sukkar, Salman and Ashbajah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1605 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1530 hours on 3 April 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 missions, 11 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and seven from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Basrah, Amarah, Diwaniyah, Artawi, Rifa'i, Jalibah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1645 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 1320 hours on 4 April 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 25 missions, two of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 23 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Umm Qasr, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Diwaniyah, Busayyah, Lasaf, Qal'at Sukkar, Shinafiyah, Jalibah and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1445 hours, drove them off.

(h) At 0950 hours on 6 April 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 18 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Basrah, Shinafiyah, Taqtaqanah, Mashkhab, Amarah, Lasaf, Shatrah, Rifa'i, Hayy and Nukhayb areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1340 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these States in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British has made these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear full international responsibility under international law. This includes liability for full compensation for the loss and damage, in both human and material terms, that is caused by these illegal practices.

The Government of Iraq further renews its call to the countries participating in this aggression to desist forthwith from internationally prohibited acts that violate Iraq's sovereignty, place its security and integrity in grave danger and pose a direct and serious threat to international peace and security.

As it condemns these acts of aggression against Iraqi targets and installations, the Government of Iraq urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter as they relate to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the Governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Tariq **Aziz**
Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs